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***Silvia Garrido López, Environmental Politics in the EU.  
Comparative Study of two member states: Germany and Spain***

Environmental consciousness became part of European political thinking mostly at the end of 70s and was connected with the foundation of environmental movements and led to the creation of green political parties. Later environmental questions were adapted to the programs of all mainstream political parties and belong to the priorities of their governments. Environmental politics is exercised on local, national and European level. For some member states European environmental politics and standards are too soft, for other it creates problems and requires special measures and financial sources. Anyway the global warming (if we believe in it or not) and the burden of industrial activities over nature require a special protection of the environment otherwise human race would be endangered.

Silvia López is trying to find the answer for the question why Spain is lacking behind the process of protection of the environment. Methodologically her thesis is based on comparison of two case studies.

In the introduction the thesis is analyzing the primary and secondary sources used.

The author is analyzing Environmental security and defining the problems. She is pointing at the problems of Spain, which is suffering of double desertification.

The author is comparing two case studies: Spain and Germany. First she is comparing their different historical experiences then she is looking at different political parties and their environmental policies. Silvia López was examining different governments in both countries from the point of view of environmental legislation. The role of NGOs was also examined.

After each chapter the author made a summary. The author also pointed out that the present economic difficulties are leading especially in Spain to the return from post-materialism to materialism. Of course there was also the role of the level of the development of the country and the stages of industrialization in both countries. Can we expect the same in the case of Germany? Is Canadian withdrawal from Kyoto protocol lead to its end?

The thesis is based on primary and secondary sources. It is well written and interesting to read.

I recommend the thesis for the defence and according to the defence I propose the evaluation “excellent”.

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